

receiving a job data from [said] a buyer, said job data having a buyer identifier data [representing said buyer], and a job descriptor data representing a custom job for which said buyer wishes a price quote or bid;

comparing said vendor records to said job data;

identifying at least one of said vendor records as qualified for receiving an invitation for bid, based on said comparison;

transmitting a solicitation to said at least one vendor;

receiving [a] bid response data from at least one of said vendors [to] which [said transmitting step transmitted] received said solicitation, said bid response data identifying

[the vendor] each of the vendors from which it was received [from] and a bid price;

[identifying a candidate bid from said received bid data, based on comparative values of said bid prices;] and

outputting to said buyer [a vendor selection data identifying] said bid response data [and said candidate bid;

receiving an approval data from said buyer, said data representing one of an approval of said vendor corresponding to said candidate bid and an approval of another of said vendors; and

transmitting an order to the vendor represented by said approval data].

2. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 1,

wherein said job data further includes a selection criteria data, said selection criteria specifying at least one of a vendor name, a vendor capability, a descriptor of an ownership characteristic of said vender, a descriptor of a union status of said vendor, and a vendor geographical location, and

wherein said comparison is [performed in accordance with] based on said selection criteria data.

3. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 1 further comprising steps of:
ranking [said received] bid response data according to [said represented] bid price;
and
publishing [an information] data to other vendors identifying said selected vendor and
[the] rank order [value] of said received bid data.

4. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 2 further comprising steps of:
ranking [said received] bid response data according to [said represented] bid price;
and
publishing [an information] data to other vendors identifying said selected vendor and
[the] rank order [value] of said received bid response data.

Please cancel claim 5.

7. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising steps of:
[inputting into said central data server a completion of job data;]
transmitting from [said] a central data server to said buyer an invoice for payment of
said bid price;
inputting a payment from said buyer into an escrow account serving as a single-source
accounts payable destination for the buyer's vendor payments; and
transferring a payment from said escrow account to an account of said vendor
corresponding to the invoice payment data.

8. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 7, further comprising steps of:
adding [the cost to the buyer of using the invention associated with each job as] a job transaction fee to the vendor payment invoice [prior to buyer approval of the invoice;]
[allocating and distributing a data representing payment of said invoice by transmitting the job transaction fee data to a system administration account and transmitting a remainder vendor payment data to an account of said vendor].

9. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 2, further comprising steps of:
[inputting into said central data server a completion of job data;]
transmitting from [said] a central data server to said buyer an invoice for payment of said bid price;
inputting a payment from said buyer into an escrow account serving as a single-source accounts payable destination for the buyer's vendor payments; and
transferring a payment from said escrow account to an account of said vendor corresponding to the invoice payment data.

10. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 9, further comprising steps of:
adding [the cost to the buyer of using the invention associated with each job as] a job transaction fee to the vendor payment invoice [prior to buyer approval of the invoice;]
[allocating and distributing a data representing payment of said invoice by transmitting the job transaction fee data to a system administration account and transmitting a remainder vendor payment data to an account of said vendor].

11. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 3, further comprising steps of:

[inputting into said central data server a completion of job data;]

transmitting from [said] a central data server to said buyer an invoice for payment of said bid price;

inputting a payment from said buyer into an escrow account serving as a single-source accounts payable destination for the buyer's vendor payments; and

transferring a payment from said escrow account to an account of said vendor corresponding to the invoice payment data.

12. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 11, further comprising steps of:

adding [the cost to the buyer of using the invention associated with each job as] a job transaction fee to the vendor payment invoice [prior to buyer approval of the invoice;]

[allocating and distributing a data representing payment of said invoice by transmitting the job transaction fee data to a system administration account and transmitting a remainder vendor payment data to an account of said vendor].

19. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 1 further comprising a step of creating a web site [having areas for at least one of a group consisting of said buyer and said vendors to visit], and

wherein step of receiving a vendor record comprises a step of said vendor visiting said web site and inputting said record using a web browser.

REMARKS

Applicant has concurrently submitted herewith an Information Disclosure Statement which sets forth additional prior art references not previously considered by the Examiner.